

Message Text

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50

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 OPIC-12 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-08

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

PRS-01 RSR-01 XMB-07 OMB-01 PM-09 /088 W

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R 302331 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3872

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 1337

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, CI

SUBJECT: AMERICAN TECHNICIANS AT CHUQUICAMATA

PASS OPIC

REF: SANTIAGO 1259

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN LETTER TO MERCURIO RESPONDING TO ARTICLE CONCERNING AMERICAN TECHNICIANS, CODELCO EXECUTIVE VP ARRATE CONFIRMED THAT LAURICH HAD BEEN CONTRACTED BY CODELCO AS TECHNICAL CONSULTANT, WHILE DENYING CONTRACTING OF OTHER AMERICANS MENTIONED BY MERCURIO. ARRATE STATED THAT, CONTRARY TO IMPLICATION OF ARTICLE, CODELCO HAD NOT ADOPTED NEW POLICY OF " RECONTRACTING US TECHNICIANS", BUT WAS CONTINUING PREVIOUS POLICY OF CONTRACTING FOREIGN TECHNICAL ADVISORS ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY TO STRENGTHEN CODELCO TECHNICAL CAPACITY. HE SAID THAT PURSUANT TO THIS POLICY NUMEROUS FOREIGN TECHNICIANS OF MANY DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES WERE PRESENTLY WORKING WITH CODELCO. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. LAURICH, WHO IS AT CHUQUICAMATA, RECENTLY TOLD EMBASSY SOURCE IN COPPER TRADE THAT HE HAD ASSEMBLED TEAM OF ABOUT 20 US TECHNICIANS WHICH CODELCO INTENDED TO HIRE ON CONTRACT TO SOLVE CHUQUICAMATA'S MANY PROBLEMS. SOURCE SAID HE BELIEVED CHUQUICAMATA GENERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANAGER DAVID SILBERMAN WOULD BE DEPARTING SOON AS RUMORED,
TO BE REPLACED BY ARMY BRIG. GEN. SERGIO NUNO. HOWEVER,
SURFACING OF MERCURIO STORY MAY HAVE SOME EFFECT ON THESE
PLANS.
DAVIS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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